MSS. Acc. 2705 (22)

Boston, July 5, 1868.

Dear friend May:

"It is lawful to do well on the sabbath day"; so, last Sunday, (as possibly you may have already heard,) Fanny did exceedingly well in presenting a dear little nine pounder of a daughter to her husband, and a none-such granddaughter to her father, everything going and to this hour continuing well with mother and child. Of course, the jubilation of our household is complete. Nine days previous, I had an additional grandson born by Ellie, William's wife; so that I am feeling very grandly in view of four grandchildren, two boys and two girls. Such reinforcements for the Garrison are timely; and the adversary may take warning that there is to be warm work in the field of moral conflict, in due time. For I trust the new comers will be spared to grow up in the spirit of reformers, and ready to do battle for unpopular right against popular wrong, and thus to make the world all the better for their advent.

The excessively warm weather we have had for several days past has been quite oversowering to me, as doubtless to yourself. To-day the mercury ranges as high as 127 in the sun, and 100 in the shade. Yesterday I left every body else to celebrate Independence Day according to the city programme, turning my back upon all the devices and spectacles held out to tempt my curiosity, and seeking one thing only — the coolest spot to be found, and that was the cellar. How the copperheads in Tammany Hall, at New York, in national assembly convened, must have seethed, and sweltered, and hissed, in an agony of perspiration! Unless they repent — if orthodoxy be true — they will yet go to a place where they will find the heat considerably greater, and the accommodations not so good. It is of comparatively little importance who they will nominate for the Presidency; for Apollyon is their standard-bearer, and his and their motto is —

"Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven!"

Surely, it is not possible that Salmon P. Chase will accept the nomination of such a crew.

How lacking in judgment, to say nothing worse, are such men as have invited Wm. Pitt Fessenden to a complimentary dinner in Boston! The list of signers comprises seventy-two "eminently respectable" citizens — among them John M. Forbes, J. Russell Lowell, Charles Eliot Norton, A. H. Bullock, &c. I have written a comment upon this ill-timed invitation for the next Independent, should there be room for it.

Joseph May is to be installed at Newburyport on the 21st inst. His father intends being present. So do I. I hope you will be able to be there also. I saw Joseph at the Laurel Picnic a few days ago. It was a very pleasant occasion.

I hear nothing whatever about the movements of Miss Estlin. Mr. Webb wrote a week ago from Philadelphia, but said nothing as to the route he intends to pursue. I expect another letter from him daily.

Your attached friend,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. S. May, Jr.

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